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CIA Plan's Leak Probed

Reagan 'Concerned' About Libya Report

United Press International

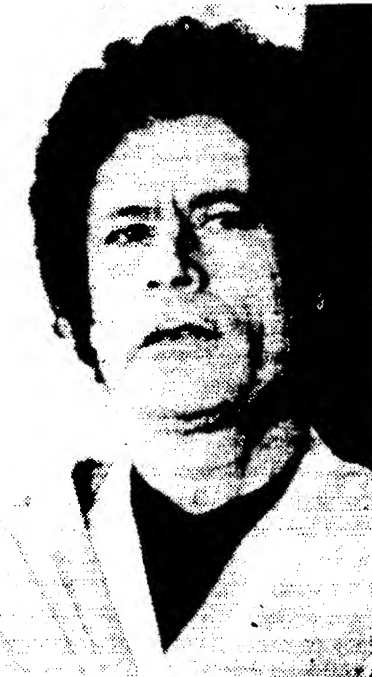
President Reagan, demanding "appropriate action" against the leak of classified information, ordered an investigation yesterday into the unauthorized disclosure of a secret Central Intelligence Agency plan to undermine the Libyan regime of Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

The White House, in an unusual step, announced the investigation of the disclosure published yesterday by The Washington Post.

White House spokesman Bill Hart, saying the administration would have no comment on "alleged intelligence activity," said Reagan in general "is very concerned over the unauthorized disclosure of intelligence and classified information."

"While in no way attributing any credence to the specific allegation and conclusions drawn in The Washington Post article on report concerning Libya, the president is ordering an investigation of the disclosure of the U.S. intelligence documents cited in this news report in an effort to determine who is responsible for such disclosure and to take appropriate action."

The presidential directive was is-



COL. MUAMMAR QADDAFI
... subject of covert operation

sued as Reagan wrapped up a weekend at Camp David, Md. The White House refused to discuss the investigation, but in the past, such matters have fallen within the purview of the FBI.

The Post reported that Reagan, with the support of Secretary of State George P. Shultz and CIA Director William J. Casey, authorized a covert plan designed to thwart Libyan support for terrorism and lure Qaddafi into a situation that would give his opponents in the Libyan military a chance to seize power or provide one of his U.S.-backed neighbors with justification for a military response.

The Post also reported "initial resistance" from the top members of the House and Senate Select Intelligence Committees: Sens. David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.). The Senate panel chairman and vice chairman wrote Reagan that the operation might conflict with an executive order that prohibits direct or indirect U.S. involvement in assassination plots.

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